

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MULTI-FORMAT
STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

sw A method and system for storing data in multiple formats based on the nature of the data and the characteristics of the possible output devices are disclosed. The disclosed invention, when coupled with a data processing system and multiple presentation devices, is designed to minimize processing requirements and processing time while maximizing output quality. The data processing system includes a central processing unit, memory, at least one output device, and a user input device. The method and system provide outputting of a data set to a physical output device such as a display, a printer, a fax, or a logical output device such as an email generator or any other data processing system. In implementing the improved method and system for improving the data set presentation process a data set is broken into objects and further into units so that each unit within an object contains a similar data type. Units that require less processing power for presentation are stored in a device-independent format. Units that require more processing power for presentation are stored in device-independent format and device dependent format determined by the presentation parameters of an attached peripheral presentation device. At presentation time a document database, or storage area, assembles the document from the units determined by the presentation device. The document is composed of data that is specific for the presentation device or data that is device independent.